

Remarks:

1. Claims 1 through 46 were originally presented. In a previous paper, claims 47 through 53 were added and claims 35, 40, and 42 were canceled without prejudice. In this paper, claims 20, 22, and 53 are canceled without prejudice. Claims 1 through 19, 21, 23 through 34, 36 through 39, 41, and 43 through 52 remain pending in this case. Claims 1, 21, 23, 24, 45, and 46 have been amended in this Response and are presented for further consideration, as amended, in view of the remarks set forth below. The Examiner has indicated that claims 11-13, 15, 16, 20-24, 29-34, 36-39, 41, 43, 44, and 47-52 are either allowed or would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include all of the characteristics of the base claim and any intervening claims.

2. Independent claims 1, 45, and 46 stand rejected under 35 USC 103(a) as being unpatentable over Tabin (U.S. Patent 5,038,067). Pending dependent claims 2-10, 14, 17-19, and 25-28 also stand rejected for various reasons as set forth in the Office Action.

3. Independent claims 1, 45, and 46 have been amended to recite: "the barrier layer being selected from the group consisting of (i) a corrugated metallic barrier layer and (ii) a composite barrier layer including a metallic work piece having a plurality of openings formed in one face thereof, the plurality of openings being filled with an epoxy resin." The amendment to claims 1, 45, and 46 is supported by original claims 20 and 22 such that no new matter has been added, no new issues have been raised, and no new search should be required. Claims 20 and 22 have been canceled without prejudice. Claims 21, 23, and 24 have also been amended to change their dependency directly to claim 1. Applicant also reserves the right to present original independent claims 1, 45, and 46 for further prosecution via one or more continuation application(s).

4. Applicant respectfully submits that amended claims 1, 45, and 46 are allowable since an indication of allowability was given to original claims 20 and 22, which depend from claim 1. Independent claim 1 being allowable, it follows that pending dependent claims 2-19,

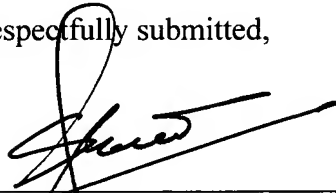
21, 23-28 are also allowable since these dependent claims carry with them all the elements of independent claim 1 to which they ultimately refer.

Applicant believes that in view of the foregoing remarks, pending claims 1 through 19, 21, 23 through 34, 36 through 39, 41, and 43 through 52 are allowable, and that this application is now in full condition for allowance, which action Applicant earnestly solicits. Should the Examiner have any questions, or believe that a telephone interview may expedite the further examination of this Application, the Examiner is requested to contact the undersigned at the telephone number shown below.

Date:

10 Feb 2006

Respectfully submitted,



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